



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*University of Massachusetts*

*Amherst 01002*

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
HERTER HALL

November 12, 1974

Dear Dan:

My apologies for accosting you so unceremoniously on the platform at UMass last Friday. I have been on leave this fall, and so my own communications are out of order -- apparently I was on the list for lunch with you but nobody could find me.

Anyway, it was a pleasure to see you in action again. As for the course on Vietnam for next semester, I am enclosing the blurb from our departmental course guide so that you can see, ex post facto, what you were endorsing.

Sincerely yours,

*Dick Minear*

Richard H. Minear

by the personalities and programs behind China's modern movements for change. Some of the topics to be treated: the nature of the Chinese revolutionary process and its place in world history; the Boxer uprising; reform and Sun Yat-sen's 1911 Revolution; the republic under Yuan Shih-k'ai; worldism; the May 4th movement and intellectual revolution; Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist revolution; foreign influence in China; rise of the Chinese Communist Party; Japanese aggression in China; civil war; the Yenan period; the People's Republic and efforts to transform China; the Cultural Revolution. A heavy use of slides will bring visual images of both the events and the personalities. Readings will be taken from various paperback books; these will be available for purchase at the University Store. One or two mid-terms plus a final examination will be required, but research papers may be written in lieu of the quizzes (in consultation with the instructor).

#### History of Vietnam

History 390-G

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The aim of this course is to provide basic literacy on one of the towering issues of the day. Why did LBJ call North Vietnam a "raggedy-ass little fourth-rate country"? What was it like to be an 11-bush humping the boonies? What really happened in the Gulf of Tonkin? What do the Pentagon Papers reveal? What's wrong with the domino theory? Why did Nixon carpet-bomb Hanoi? If you can't answer these questions, you need this course, an eye-opening introduction to Vietnamese culture and history and to official American thinking about Vietnam.

Readings include Frances Fitzgerald, Fire in the Lake; k Noam Chomsky, At War with Asia; Nixon speeches, Kissinger articles (both for demolition purposes), and assorted articles. One hour exam, one short (4 page) paper, and a final exam will be required, as well as active participation in discussion sessions. For each session there will be an assigned reading, a brief quiz, and then discussion aimed at increasing critical faculties. There are no pre-requisites. Added Notes: Attractions include movies, guest lecturers.